

**YANCEYVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
RECESS-MEETING MINUTES  
for August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Tuesday August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 PM**

The meeting of the Town Council was held remotely in the Council Chambers at the Yanceyville Municipal Services Building and due to COVID-19 the meeting was also conducted electronically through Zoom on Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

**Council Members present in person:** Mayor- Alvin Foster, Keith Tatum, and Brian Massey

**Council Members present electronically:** Mayor Pro Tem- Odessa Gwynn and Margie Badgett-Lampkin

**Staff present in person:** Town Manager- Brian Collie

**Staff present electronically:** Town Clerk- Kamara Graves and Code Enforcer Bradley Davis

**Item 1: Call to Order**

Mayor Foster asked for a motion reconvene the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to reconvene the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Town Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tatum and passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Foster stated that the Meeting would resume from Item 6: Public Hearing

**Item 6: Public Hearing- Discuss and Consider Conditional Zoning District Petition**

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion to convene to Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made the motion to convene to Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Town Manager Collie explained that the Town received a Conditional Zoning District Application for 336 West Main Street Map and Parcel 0068 057. He explained that the current zone for this property is separated into two zoning districts RR8- restricted residential and RA- Restricted Agricultural. The current Property Owner, Zach Stout is requesting that the property be re-zone to R8 Residential Medium Density Conditional Zoning District. Town Manager Collie explained that the Planning Board made a unanimous recommendation to approve the application presented with Staff's recommendation of a security fence between the rest home property and the Dongola house and a driveway/ pedestrian ingress and egress coming out on to Main Street instead of West Main Street.

Mayor Foster asked if anyone one had any questions for the Town Manager Collie or Property Owner, Zach Stout.

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion to go out of Public Hearing. Councilman Tatum made a motion to go out of Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion to reconvene to Regular Session. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion to reconvene to Regular Session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Massey and passed with a unanimous vote.

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion. Councilman Tatum made a motion to rezone 336 West Main Street Map and Parcel 0068 57 to R8 Residential Medium Density Conditional Zoning District. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn and passed with a unanimous vote.

#### **Item 4: Public Comments/ Discussion of Letter Received from Charles H. Blackwell**

Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn indicated that she received a letter from Mr. Blackwell in the form of an email. She explained that she had read letters sent to the editor of the Caswell Messenger Newspaper and persons are requesting that the Confederate Statue on the square be removed peacefully and taken to another location, because of what the Confederate soldier stands for. She stated that Mr. Blackwell asked the Town Council, the elected officials that represent him to write a letter to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners asking them to remove the statue. She stated whether we all agree or not the Town should reply to Mr. Blackwell.

Mayor Foster stated that everyone has their opinion. He added that he shared his opinion with the Chairmen of the Caswell County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager. He encouraged all of Town Council to share their opinions also. He explained that the removal of the statue is a Caswell County Board of Commissioners decision not the Yanceyville Town Council. He explained that he felt that the Town of Yanceyville and Caswell County's relationship has improved greatly over the years. He added that he would hate for this issue to cause division among the County and the Town. He stated that moving forward into the future there needs to be another focal point in the center of the Town of Yanceyville. He added that there needs to be a planned process before any action is taken. He indicated that there are two sides and both have to reviewed.

Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn stated that the letter submitted by Mr. Blackwell, resident of the Town asked the Town Council to write a letter to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners. She added that she has received phones calls inquiring as to why the Town participated in the State of Emergency in reference to the square. She suggested that because the Town was involved with the State of Emergency persons felt that it was a decision that the Town had to make. She expressed that since the Town participated in the State of Emergency Mr. Blackwell is asking for Town Council to make a request of the County Commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn explained that whether a letter is written or not Mr. Blackwell should receive notification from the Town on the decision of Town Council. She indicated that the Town of Yanceyville is 54.9% African American in population.

Councilwoman Badgett-Lampkin stated that if we don't make a statement as Town Council how do we explain the action? Mayor Pro Tem stated that in the letter from Mr. Blackwell he stated "I respectfully request that the Town Council endorse our efforts to have the statue removed and to do so in the form of a letter to the Board of County Commissioners." She explained that if Town Council does not want to write the letter the Town needs inform Mr. Blackwell why and let the record show how Town Council voted. Councilwoman Badgett- Lampkin explained that each person has a different feeling and opinion about the statue. She expressed that the statue needed to come down in a peaceful manner.

Mayor Foster stated the he felt that each Town Council member should individually express their concern and opinion with the County as well citizens. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn stated that she felt the Yanceyville Town Council was elected to represent the citizens of the Town, and if we are representing the citizens of the Town, Town Council should vote to do it or not but let the record reflect. She expressed that she would have voted for the Town to not be a part of the initial State of Emergency referencing the square. Town Manager Collie explained that the Town was involved with the State of Emergency for safety reasons in support of Sheriff Durden to have another tool to assist the Caswell County Sheriff Department.

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn made a motion that the Town of Yanceyville submit a letter/request to the Caswell County Board of Commissioners to consider removing the Confederate statue. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Badgett -Lampkin and failed with a two to three vote.

Mayor Foster stated we will do a roll call vote:

Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn – Yes

Councilwoman Badgett- Lampkin- Yes

Mayor Foster- No, because it will damage the Town's relationship with the County and potentially hinder other projects that the Town and County are working on.

Councilman Massey No

Councilman Tatum- No

Mayor Pro Tem Gwynn asked will the Town do a letter to Mr. Blackwell letting him know the decision of Town Council and the vote. Town Manager Collie noted that he would generate a letter in response to the Public Comment/ request of Mr. Blackwell and the vote that was taken. He added that he would send a copy of the letter to Town Council.

**Item 17: Informal Discussion/ Public Comment** – Discussion & Comments must directly relate to agenda items

None

**Item 18: Adjournment**

Mayor Foster asked Town Council for a motion to adjourn the Town Council Meeting. After no further discussion, Councilman Tatum made a motion to adjourn the Town Council. Councilwoman Badgett- Lampkin seconded the motion that passed with a unanimous vote.

*Kamara Graves, Town Clerk prepared the above minutes. They represent a brief description of those matters that were addressed at this meeting*

Respectively Submitted:

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Alvin Foster, Mayor

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Kamara Graves, Town Clerk